



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 338

February Session, 2002

Substitute House Bill No. 5702

House of Representatives, April 4, 2002

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. O'ROURKE of the 32nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING TOWN PARTICIPATION IN THE STATE-WIDE CENTRALIZED VOTER REGISTRATION SYSTEM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section,
2 "state-wide centralized voter registration system" means a
3 computerized system designed and maintained by the Secretary of the
4 State which includes: (1) Voter registration information prescribed by
5 the Secretary, (2) information contained in applications for admission
6 as electors described in section 9-20 of the general statutes, (3)
7 information needed to compile registry lists and enrollment lists under
8 sections 9-35 and 9-54 of the general statutes, (4) information required
9 by section 9-50a of the general statutes, and (5) other information for
10 use in complying with the provisions of title 9 of the general statutes.

11 (b) The Secretary of the State and the Chief Information Officer of
12 the Department of Information Technology shall examine the state-

13 wide centralized voter registration system and the systems used by
 14 registrars who do not participate in the state-wide centralized voter
 15 registration system. Such examination shall determine whether any
 16 such registrar will lose functionality by transferring to the state-wide
 17 centralized voter registration system. Such functionality includes, but
 18 is not limited to, the ability to obtain necessary reports and data from
 19 the system. When the Secretary and the Chief Information Officer
 20 determine that no registrar will lose functionality by transferring to the
 21 state-wide centralized voter registration system, the Secretary and the
 22 Chief Information Officer shall jointly certify that the system provides
 23 no loss of functionality. The Secretary and the Chief Information
 24 Officer shall report such certification to the joint standing committee of
 25 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
 26 elections, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes.

27 (c) Not later than four months after such certification is submitted to
 28 the committee, each registrar of voters shall transmit to the office of the
 29 Secretary of the State all elector information required by the office to
 30 complete the state-wide centralized voter registration system. Each
 31 registrar shall transmit such information in a format prescribed by the
 32 Secretary of the State. Registrars of voters may transmit the
 33 information required under this subsection at any time before the
 34 deadline. Not later than six months after such certification, each
 35 registrar of voters shall participate in the state-wide centralized voter
 36 registration system in the manner prescribed by the Secretary.

37 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than February 1, 2003, the
 38 Secretary of the State shall submit a report to the joint standing
 39 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
 40 relating to elections, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general
 41 statutes. The report shall indicate the status of the examination and
 42 certification required by section 1 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:**

Fund-Type	Agency Affected	FY 03 \$
GF - Cost	Secretary of the State	325,500
GF - Cost	Elect. Enforcement Com.	None
GF - Cost	Inf. Technol., Dept.	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Effect	Municipalities	FY 03 \$
STATE MANDATE - Cost	Various Municipalities	See Below

Explanation

This bill requires the secretary of the state (SOTS) and the chief information officer of the Department of Information Technology (DOIT) to examine and issue a report on the statewide centralized voter registration system, and the functionality of the voter registrations systems used by municipalities not participating in the statewide system.

The SOTS will incur costs of \$325,500 to jointly examine and issue a report with DOIT on the functionality of town voter registrations systems. These costs are as follows:

- One system analyst and one program analyst to review functionality of towns not on the statewide system, at a rate of \$1500 per day, for 63 days, for a total of \$94,500;
- One systems architect and one systems developer to make programming code changes based on the evaluation of town

voter systems, at a rate of \$1500 per day, for 154 days, for a total of \$231,000.

Municipal Impact

It is expected that this bill will result in no fiscal impact to those municipalities that currently participate in the statewide system. As of March 11, 2002, 142 municipalities are on the statewide system (an additional five towns have made commitments to join).

The twenty-seven municipalities not participating in the statewide system may realize a cost when SOTS and DOIT submit certification to the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee reporting that no town would lose functionality by transferring to the statewide system. Not later than six months after such certification to GAE, every town must participate in the statewide system.

SOTS provides each town that joins the statewide system a computer, associated hardware, a printer, and an ISDN connection. However, municipalities will incur costs for subsequent system maintenance and upkeep of the hardware. A medium or large municipality may need more than one computer and printer, and thus the municipality would incur additional costs.

OLR Bill Analysis*sHB 5702****AN ACT CONCERNING TOWN PARTICIPATION IN THE STATE-WIDE CENTRALIZED VOTER REGISTRATION SYSTEM*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the secretary of the state and the Department of Information Technology's chief information officer (CIO) to examine (1) the statewide centralized voter registration system and (2) the voter registration systems used by towns that are not participating in the secretary's statewide system. When the secretary and CIO determine that no town would lose functionality by transferring to the statewide system, they must certify that fact and report it to the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee. Within four months after they submit the certification to the committee, towns not participating in the statewide system must send voter information to the secretary's office and, within six months after certification, begin participating in the statewide computerized voter registration system.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

SYSTEMS REVIEW AND CERTIFICATION

The bill requires the secretary and the CIO to review the statewide system and the voter registration systems used by registrars of voters who are not on the statewide system. In their review, they must determine whether a town would lose functionality by moving to the statewide system. "Functionality" includes the ability to retrieve necessary reports or data from the system. Once the secretary and CIO determine that no registrar would lose functionality by transferring to the statewide system, they must jointly certify that fact and report it to the GAE committee. The secretary must report to GAE by February 1, 2003 on the progress of their review and certification effort.

POST-CERTIFICATION

Not later than four months after the certification goes to GAE, every registrar must transmit the voter information the secretary requires

and in a format she specifies in order to complete the statewide voter registration system. Not later than six months after the certification, every town registrar must participate in the statewide computerized voter registration system.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 12 Nay 7